



ACTIVITY

Mini Wormery

Learn where a worm likes to live and understand their importance for healthy soil and healthy plants.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Location: Outdoors

School term: All year round

Level of experience: No experience needed

Subject(s): Science

Learning objectives

- ✓ Identify and name worms and have knowledge of their habitat
- ✓ Understand how worms are adapted to their environment

Step by step

- 1** Collect some worms from the garden. Look in the compost heap, under stones in damp places or dig a hole.
- 2** Cut the top ¼ off the bottle, to make a lid. Make a slit in the side of the lid so that the top can close over the bottom part.
- 3** Fill the bottle with alternating layers of sand, soil, sand, compost, sand etc. Spray each layer with water so that it is damp.
- 4** Add a few worms to the top of the bottle and watch them burrow down. Then add the 'food' to the top. Wash hands well after handling worms and compost.
- 5** Wrap the black cardboard around the bottle to make it dark. Worms do not like light and it will encourage them to burrow around the outside of the bottle so they can be observed.
- 6** Place the wormery in a warm place. Remove the cardboard for observation periods and record findings. Check that the contents are damp and that there is food available for the worms.
- 7** After 1 week, release the worms back into the garden.

Essential background information

Hunt for Worms >



Preparation

Cut the top off the bottles if pupils are too young to do this.

Use a sharp pencil to pierce a hole near top of bottle to make cutting easier.

Equipment needed

- 2 litre clear, plastic bottles
- Safety scissors
- Compost or soil or a mixture of both
- Sharp sand
- A few worms per bottle
- Water sprayer to dampen layers
- Worm food – grated carrot, vegetable peelings, dead leaves, shredded newspaper

Hints & tips

- 💡 The layers disappear as the sand and soil mix together and channels appear where the worms have burrowed
- 💡 The food from the top may be dragged downwards
- 💡 Do not feed the worms citrus fruits or onions
- 💡 Use this activity as part of the **Earth Matters** class growing topic